

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the written description:

Please amend the paragraph in the present specification at page 14, lines 10-27 as follows:

The nonionic monomer having a solubility parameter of 20.5 (hereinafter, the unit (MPa)^{1/2} will be omitted for simplification.) or less constituting the copolymer (A) according to the invention may be a saturated or unsaturated monomer. The nonionic monomer is particularly preferably an unsaturated monomer, and examples thereof include alkyl (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylic acid of 1 to 40 carbons, preferably alkyl esters of 2 to 24 carbons, vinyl alcohol of 1 to 40 carbons, preferably alkyl acid esters of 2 to 24 carbons, alkyl-modified (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylamides of 2 to 40 carbons, preferably of 3 to 24 carbons; alkoxy-modified (meth) acrylamides of 2 to 40 carbons, preferably of 3 to 24 carbons, mono- or di-alkyl esters of maleic acid of 1 to 40 carbons; mono- or di-alkyl esters of fumaric acid of 1 to 40 carbons; styrene, vinyltoluene, α -methylstyrene, ethylene, propylene, butadiene, polyalkylene glycol (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylates, alkoxy polyalkylene glycol (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylates, polyalkylene glycol alkenylethers, alkoxy polyalkylene glycol alkenylethers, and the like.

Please amend the paragraph in the present specification at page 15, lines 1-9 as follows:

The anionic monomer constituting the copolymer (A) according to the invention is preferably an unsaturated monomer, and examples thereof include sodium salts, potassium salts, ammonium salts and other salts of monocarboxylic acids such as (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylic acid and

crotonic acid; dicarboxylic acids such as maleic acid, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, and muconic acid, or the half esters thereof; and organic sulfonic acids such as vinylsulfonic acid, styrenesulfonic acid, and 2-acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid and the like.

Please amend the paragraph in the present specification starting at page 15, line 10 and ending at page 16, line 3 as follows:

The cationic monomer constituting the copolymer (A) according to the invention is preferably an unsaturated monomer, and the examples thereof include dimethylaminoethyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylate, diethylaminoethyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylate, dimethylaminopropyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylamide, diethylaminopropyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylamide, allylamine, diallylamine, and triallylamine, or the salts thereof with an inorganic or organic acid such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, phosphoric acid, or the like; and vinyl monomers having a quaternary ammonium salt obtained in a reaction with a quaternarizing agent such as methyl halide (chloride, bromide, etc.), ethyl halide (chloride, bromide, etc.), benzyl halide (chloride, bromide, etc.), dialkyl (methyl, ethyl, etc.) sulfate, dialkyl (methyl, ethyl, etc.) carbonate, or epichlorohydrin. Dimethylaminoethyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylate, diethylaminoethyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylate, dimethylaminopropyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylamide, diethylaminopropyl ~~(meta)~~ (meth) acrylamide, allylamine, diallylamine, or triallylamine may be used after treated with a salt of an inorganic or organic acid such as hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, or phosphoric acid, or the like after copolymerization.

Please amend the paragraph in the present specification starting at page 16, line 9 and ending at page 17, line 4 as follows:

In addition, a crosslinking monomer may be used partially in the unsaturated monomer constituting the copolymer (A), for improvement in paper strength. The crosslinkable monomer may or may not be one of the nonionic unsaturated monomer having a solubility parameter of 20.5 or less, the anionic monomer, the cationic monomer, and the nonionic unsaturated monomer having a solubility parameter of 26.6 or more described above. Further a monomer not belonging to the above may be used. The degree of crosslinking depends significantly on molar ratio, and the ratio of the crosslinkable monomer is preferably 0.001 to 5 mole %, more preferably 0.01 to 1 mole %, and particularly preferably 0.05 to 0.5 mole % with respect to the entire constituting monomers. Examples of the crosslinkable monomers include bifunctional crosslinkable monomers such as methylene bis (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylamide, ethylene bis (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylamide, hexamethylene bis (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylamide, ethylene glycol di (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylate, diethylene glycol di (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylate, triethylene glycol di (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylate, polyethylene glycol di (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylate, divinylbenzene, and diallyl (~~meta~~) (meth) acrylamide; multifunctional crosslinkable monomers such as 1,3,5-triacryloyl hexahydro-S-triazine, triallyl isocyanurate, pentaerythritol triacrylate, trimethylolpropane acrylate, triacryl formal, diacryloylimide; and the like.